

State of the Schools Report

The State of the Schools Report (SOSR) will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 24th and remain open until December 5th. The State of the Schools Report is accessed at: Student Performance Reporting System 2008 (STARS) under the Data Collections tab in the NDE Portal <http://portal.nde.state.ne.us/>

The Report Card includes all data changes submitted in November and the new requirements for Safe Harbor process in AYP. NCLB requires a time for districts to appeal AYP decisions. Since we have changed the Safe Harbor provisions of the AYP process, we are providing districts an opportunity during this second preview window as a time to review AYP decisions and submit appeals if needed. AYP Appeals include a written description of the identified issues and a printout of the AYP decision in question from the Report Card. AYP appeals should be submitted if you feel that there is an error in the way the AYP decision was calculated. **AYP Appeals must be submitted to the Assessment Office of the Department by December 5th.**

NSSRS

As announced earlier, the US Department of Education has released new requirements for calculating graduation rates. An upcoming telecast (NCLB Update December 2008) will cover these new regulations. It is important to know now that the 2007-08 data in the NSSRS is the baseline data for the new graduation rate calculations. If you have 2007-08 completer data that is still inaccurate, you need to contact the NDE helpdesk (nde.helpdesk@nebraska.gov or 1-888-285-0556).

WRITING and ELDA Labels Verification Reports

The "Statewide Writing" verification report is now available in NSSRS Validation for districts to use between now and December 8 to ensure the correct students are appearing with the correct demographics and at the correct school for purposes of the Statewide Writing label extract. This report is similar in function to the "ELDA Labels" verification report districts use to verify information for the English Language Development Assessment label extract, which also has the December 8 deadline. You may notice that Migrant is not presently listed on this report as that data now comes from the MIS2000 migrant data system.

Special Education Data

Reminder Monthly Special Education Snapshot due on 23 Nov

This is NOT REQUIRED. The monthly submission of the Special Education Snapshot serves as the source of special education data to be compared with data provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the purpose of creating the Medicaid in Public Schools (MIPS) claim forms/list. For more information please refer to page 2 of the Special Education Snapshot Template instruction manual or contact the help desk.

NCLB Consolidated Application for 2008-09

2008-09 NCLB Consolidated Applications that have been created but not submitted or were submitted and returned for changes are due by November 28th.

REAP

A spreadsheet has been posted on the NCLB homepage (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/federalprograms/index.htm>) that lists the districts that have received a REAP Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) grant award for fiscal years (FY) 2006, 2007, and 2008, and the unspent balance remaining for each grant. There is a separate tab at the bottom left of the spreadsheet for each fiscal year.

Any district showing a remaining balance of FY 2006 SRSA funds must liquidate all obligated funds by December 30, 2008. After this date, districts will not be able to access any FY 2006 SRSA funds. Districts should retain ample documentation to prove that the funds they now seek to liquidate were obligated by September 30, 2008.

Similarly, districts that have remaining FY 2007 balances need to obligate those grant monies by September 30, 2009 and liquidate any obligated funds by December 30, 2009. For the FY 2008 SRSA grant awards that were mailed out earlier this year, grantees need to obligate award funds by September 30, 2010 and liquidate them by December